GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:370
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2002
CUTTING OF FRUIT BEARING TREES
CHARAN DAS MAHANT

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that several thousands grown up fruit bearing trees have been cut in the process of eviction of encroachers from the protected and reserved forests;

(b) if so, the details of such trees cut down during the last one year and thereafter, State-wise; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to plant more fruit bearing trees to compensate the loss caused by cutting down the said trees?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) FOR LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.370 DATED 16TH DECEMBER 2002 REGARDING CUTTING OF FRUIT BEARING TREES BY DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT

(a)&(b) There is no report with the Central Government, except in the case of Andamans and Nicobar Islands, of cutting down ofgrown up fruit bearing trees in the process of eviction of encroachers from Protected and Reserved Forests. Forest Department, Andaman and Nicobar Islands has planted 3,28,809 plants of forest species on 1050.20 hectares of forest area after the removal of encroachments.

(c) Government is encouraging planting of fruit bearing forest species indigenous to the area under various plantation programmes. The choice of forest tree species is primarily dependent on locality factors and site conditions. However, cultivation of horticultural crops on forest land is considered a non forest purpose under Forest(Conservation)Act 1980.